

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 QUITO 04285 291831Z  
ACTION SCS-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 DHA-02 /026 W  
-----128949 292222Z /73

R 291400Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4896  
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS QUITO 4285

FOR: SCS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CARR  
SUBJECT: LEGAL REPRESENTATION AVAILABLE TO AMCITS ARRESTED ABROAD.

REF: STATE 147704

1. LEGAL COUNSEL IS PROVIDED GRATIS TO INDIGENT PRISONERS IN CRIMINAL CASES IN ECUADOR. THE DEFENSOR DE OFICIO IS NAMED BY THE COURT HOWEVER, ONLY AFTER A TRIAL DATE HAS BEEN SCHEDULED. THE PRISONER, THEREFORE, DOES NOT HAVE ANY LEGAL COUNSEL DURING THE USUALLY MONTHS-LONG PERIOD OF PRETRIAL DETENTION WHICH IS PRECISELY THE TIME WHEN LAWYEARS OFTEN DO THEIR MOST EFFECTIVE WORK.
2. SUCH LEGAL REPRESENTATION IS READILY AVAILABLE.
3. THE DEFENSOR DE OFICIO IS CHOSEN FROM A ROSTER COMPOSED OF THE YOUNGEST AND LEAST EXPERIENCED ATTORNEYS. IN THE AREA. IF THE DEFENDENT IS FORTUNATE, THE COURT-APPOINTED ATTORNEY WILL COMPENSATE FOR HIS LACK OF EXPERIENCE WITH ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM, BUT THERE IS ALMOST NO WAY HE CAN MAKE UP HIS DEFICIENCY IN INFLUENCE AND CONNECTIONS. PUBLIC FUNDED LEGAL ASSISTANCE IS LIKELY THEREFORE TO BE OF LOWER QUALITY

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THAN PAID PRIVATE COUNSEL.  
BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 29-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LEGAL REPRESENTATION AVAILABLE TO AMCITS ARRESTED ABROAD.  
**TAGS:** CARR  
**To:** STATE GUAYAQUIL  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/ff2e667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
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